

REMARKS

The continued allowability of independent claim 17 and its dependent claims continues to be appreciated. However, allowability of still-rejected independent claim 18 and its dependent claims is still desired.

The recitation of "without a nut" at the beginning of the Jepson-included matter of claim 18 should be permitted now, after the final Action, because it only excludes a nut that wasn't claimed before, either.

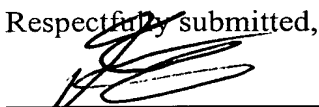
The exclusion of the nut is desired to emphasize the importance to claim 18 of the small diameter previously claimed at the end of claim 18. This is now confirmed by the antecedent reference added there linking the small diameter to the nut exclusion.

The small diameter is, therefore, not a design choice but a critical element of the whole nut-less combination claimed.

Of the many references previously cited and considered, none discloses or suggests the importance of small diameter to nut elimination. Because the references do not disclose or suggest this, claim 18 should be allowable thereover. Only the specification discloses such a self-locking bolt of, for example, 1.7 mm. Such features are not disclosed in the many citations in this long-pending application.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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